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CLAIMS:

1. A method of monitoring changes in an information set of wagers placed on the outcome of a sporting contest, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 5 a. a principal entering into an agreement with a service provider to provide real time activity monitoring service, the principal defining at least one parameter about the information set for at least one change in the information set about which the principal wishes to be alerted;
 - b. the service provider monitoring a predetermined information set in real-time, according to the principals at least one parameter using at least one computer,
10 and
 - c. the service provider providing a real-time alert message to the principal via a remote communications device (RCD) when the at least one change according to the principal's at least one parameter occurs.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the service provider utilises a
15 totalisator agency database to monitor the wagering activity.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the real-time monitoring and alert message occur prior to the outcome of the sporting contest to which the principal's at least one parameter relates.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the remote communications
20 device (RCD) comprises the principal's fixed or mobile telephone, a personal computing device or a facsimile or pager of the principal.
5. ~~A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the principal's RCD has a~~
software component which can be used to send an input command to a software environment that is running on the network of computer systems of the service
25 provider in response to the input command the software environment sends a local input command to a software environment component that processes the command and which responds by issuing a local output command to a server infrastructure which in turn sends a remote output command to the principal's RCD, and in response to a remote output commands, the RCD issues or displays an alert output.
- 30 6. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the principal can define parameters of a situation in which alert messages are to be issued.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the service provider uses a network of computers or computer systems to monitor the an information set of wagers placed on the outcome of a sporting contest.

8. A method according to claim 6 wherein the network is adapted to send
5 and receive information to and from a wager agency data server which contains a real time information set of wagers placed on the outcome of a sporting contest.

9. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of providing at least one history server, the purpose of which is to provide data to any of the computers, the history server scanning all the information set as it becomes
10 available so that the data never needs to be requested from an outside source more than once, the history server storing the data in a database to prevent the need to request the same information numerous times.